

CELEBRATING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARY KIGHT

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Kight of Waterbury, Connecticut.

Mary Kight, an extraordinary woman, exhibits remarkable strength, courage, and patriotism. Her son, Michael Aaron Kight served as a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army and was killed in action on May 19, 1967 while trying to evacuate injured soldiers in South Vietnam.

Shortly after her son's death, Mrs. Kight joined the Gold Star Mothers and dedicated her time to helping families and communities remember her son and all those who sacrificed their lives for our country.

Mrs. Kight went on to serve as Connecticut Department Chair of the American Gold Star Mothers for many years. She was instrumental in acquiring the beautiful Gold Star Mothers Statue that is proudly displayed in Waterbury City Hall.

While Mrs. Kight is no longer the department chair of the Gold Star Mothers, she is still an active member of the organization. She is also involved in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee. She proudly wears her white uniform at all of the local veterans' ceremonies to honor and remember her son.

This evening, as part of the Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemoration program, the Daughters of the American Revolution will present Mrs. Kight with a certificate recognizing her for her service and sacrifice.

I congratulate Mrs. Kight on this honor, and thank her for all that she does for the City of Waterbury, State of Connecticut, and United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO JOE HOGAN

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a long-time friend and a resident of my home town of Levittown, Joe Hogan. Joe was named to be the grand marshal of the 2015 Bucks County St. Patrick's Day Parade because of his lifetime of service to the veteran's community. I have known Joe for many years and over that time he has exemplified how a committed community servant should live his life. A combat wounded Marine, Joe has served as a post-commander for his local VFW, member of the Disabled American Veterans and presently serves as the president of the Guardians of the National Cemetery, an all-volunteer support organization for the Washington Crossing National Cemetery. Joe has also served as an adult leader for Boy Scout Troop 123 and has remained active with coaching youth sports including his grandson's baseball team for the last three decades. I am fortunate to call him my friend and I look forward to seeing many more years of his involvement in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA SCHIANDRA FOR HER EFFORTS IN PITTSSTON, PENNSYLVANIA ON BEHALF OF BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Schiandra who is to be named Person of the Year by the Greater Pittston Sunday Dispatch. In October 2014 Ms. Schiandra organized one of the biggest fundraisers in the history of Pittston, Pennsylvania. Over the course of four days, Ms. Schiandra raised both awareness of breast cancer's toll and the importance of its prevention and \$30,000 for breast cancer research—all during the first annual and very successful Paint Pittston Pink event.

It was Ms. Schiandra's own experience that led to this remarkable achievement. She was pregnant with her youngest son when she discovered her own cancer. At only 34 years old she was diagnosed with a highly aggressive type of cancer with a high recurrence rate. After she began chemotherapy, she learned that she qualified for a clinical trial of a vaccine at the University of Pennsylvania sponsored by the Pennies in Action Fund, the eventual beneficiary of her community work.

Initially, the plan for Paint Pittston Pink was to utilize breast cancer awareness flags to line Pittston's Main Street during the month of October. Paint Pittston Pink quickly grew into a much larger event, attracting hundreds of people and a host of local businesses. The ColorMePink 5K and Caped CURE-Sader Family Fun Walk drew over 500 participants to Downtown Pittston. At the end of the four days, Barbara and her team presented a check for \$30,000 to the University of Pennsylvania Pennies in Action Fund to support its cancer research. Greater Pittston, and all those affected by cancer, were highly moved by her efforts.

I congratulate Ms. Schiandra on being named Person of the Year by the Greater Pittston Sunday Dispatch, and I applaud both her inspirational personal courage and her heroic efforts to fight cancer. With efforts like Barbara's, we will one day fully beat this disease.

HONORING THE 11TH ANNUAL
SENEY VETERANS SNOWMOBILE
RIDE

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 11th annual Seney Veterans Snowmobile Ride, which will occur on Saturday, March 14, 2015 in Seney, Michigan.

I had the privilege of participating last year with over 300 fellow riders as we honored and remembered the sacrifices and service of all that have served our nation.

Founded by Don and Diane Reed, veterans and owners of the Fox River Motel and sponsored by the Seney Snowmobile Association,

the event has grown every year since it was first established building on their motto of "be a Vet, bring a Vet, thank a Vet."

Please join me in recognizing all the veterans and supporters participating in the Seney Veterans Snowmobile Ride. We must never forget our veterans and their contribution to the United States.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HUMAN
TRAFFICKING FRAUD ENFORCEMENT
ACT OF 2015

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce bipartisan legislation with my colleague Rep. TED POE.

In March of 1931 the infamous gangster, Al Capone, was indicted for tax fraud. Today the IRS Criminal Investigations division continues to play a vital role in proving criminal activity and fraud, and I believe they can play an even stronger role in cracking down on human trafficking and prostitution.

This bill is meant to enhance the Internal Revenue Service's ability to crack down on sex trafficking by authorizing \$4 million to establish an office within the IRS to prosecute sex traffickers for violations of tax laws. The office would focus on the willful failure of traffickers to file returns, supply information, or pay tax where the taxpayer is an "aggravated" non-filer. In addition, the office would coordinate closely with existing task forces focused on sex trafficking offenders in the Department of Justice.

The bill also amends the Internal Revenue Code to increase criminal monetary and other penalties for attempts to: evade or defeat tax, willful failure to file a tax return, supply information, or pay tax, aggravated failure to file tax returns, fraud and false statements, and underpayment or overpayment of tax due to fraud. This offense will carry a maximum sentence of 10 years and a maximum fine of \$50,000.00.

The Human Trafficking Fraud Enforcement Act of 2015 also establishes a new felony offense for an aggravated failure to file to include failure to file with respect to income or payments derived from activity which is criminal under Federal or State law. This will target conduct committed by those involved in the promotion of commercial sex acts—pimps and traffickers—and not conduct of exploited persons in prostitution.

Last, this bill directly benefits those that are victimized by the traffickers by revising current IRS Whistleblower provisions so that women and girls who choose to participate in the investigation will be eligible to participate in the whistleblower program and may ultimately be granted up to 15% of any fines levied against the trafficker.

While important strides have been made to address trafficking, we must still use every tool possible to take down the traffickers. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING LOUIS GRIESEMER, SPRINGFIELD UNDERGROUND PRESIDENT, ON RECEIVING JAMES CHRISTIE SAFETY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Louis Griesemer, president of Springfield Underground, on receiving the 2014 James Christie Safety and Health Professional of the Year Award presented by the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA).

The James Christie Safety and Health Professional of the Year Award recognizes those that contribute generous efforts towards maintaining proficient health and safety standards at their workplace. The award was created in 1987 in recognition of James Christie, who challenged the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to focus on the safety practices of workers and not just the facility.

In addition to his duties as president of Springfield Underground, Louis Griesemer has been an active member of the NSSGA. He served as the association's chairman of the board in 2007.

Louis Griesemer understands that in order for American business to succeed, we need employers to act responsibly in protecting workers from safety and health hazards. The fact that Louis has been certified by the MSHA as a safety instructor stands as just one illustration of his commitment to this important goal. Further, our nation is strengthened when business leaders like Louis go "the extra mile" to bolster understanding both of and by the regulator and the regulated community. His leadership on the MSHA-NSSGA Alliance for education and training has achieved substantial results in this effort.

I am honored to recognize Louis Griesemer, and I congratulate him on receiving the 2014 James Christie Safety and Health Professional of the Year Award.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,153,537,817,364.77. We've added \$7,526,660,768,451.69 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATING DR. JAMES CAPOLUPO

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. James Capolupo of Springfield, Pennsylvania for being named the Superintendent of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators.

Dr. Capolupo began his career as a music teacher and band director before rising to serve as an administrator in the Springfield Township School District. His talents and dedication to his students led him to be named the district's superintendent in 2005. Under his leadership, the district has become a model for innovative and effective instruction. His reputation has spread beyond the district, with representatives from more than 120 other school districts having visited Springfield to learn more about Dr. Capolupo's methods.

Dr. Capolupo earned national recognition last year when he was named a finalist for National Superintendent of the Year by the National Association of School Superintendents. This distinction is awarded to five superintendents around the country who have created a "model of uncompromising dedication to literacy and academic achievement." So it is no surprise to learn of his recognition as Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year.

I wish to congratulate Dr. Capolupo and the entire staff at Springfield School District for their hard work on our children's behalf.

HORSE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Horse Transportation Safety Act with Rep. WHITFIELD, my esteemed colleague from Kentucky. I believe that the way we treat animals is a reflection of who we are as human beings so I have introduced this bill to halt the transport of horses in double-deck trailers, a practice that is dangerous for the animals and considered inhumane by many animal welfare advocates. Horses transported in these trailers often endure long journeys in cramped positions and suffer serious injuries as a result. Upon enactment, the Horse Transportation Safety Act would outlaw the transportation of horses in these two-tiered trailers. Violators of the law would be subject to civil penalties.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important legislation.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION FOR THE LIFE OF DR. LOIS DAVIS GIBSON

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Lois Gibson. We

are all saddened by the loss of this gentle and loving spirit, Lois Gibson, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, sister-in-law, educator, Delta Sigma Theta Soror, Director of Nursing Program/FCCJ, Dean of Health Services/FCCJ, loved one, friend and so much more. A very proud and spiritual lady who gave so much to so many at every level of her being. Dr. Gibson was warmly considered the "Proverbial Woman" as she would touch you in her special and endearing way. She gave us a sense of pride and accomplishment, and she inspired us to go beyond our potential through learning and sharing.

As a mother, she raised generations to be proud and use the past to make a better future. As an educator, she dared us to be more than ordinary, she encouraged and pushed us to be better than we even knew; and as a citizen of the world, she made us understand and appreciate our individual differences, and all that we hold in common. As a true believer, she simply made us believe by her example. Her standards were high, yet attainable; her truths were straightforward and without embellishment; her voice was strong with reason and reassurance; her directions were clear, simple and intended for keeping our feet on the right path; her love was great and powerful and shown brightly in her eyes and heart.

Though our hearts ache, our tears of pain are mixed with loving memories of her smile, her touch and that gleam in her eyes telling all who knew her, that she loved you and always will. And in her remembrance, we are drawn to the words of Paul, in the book of 2nd Timothy, "For I am now ready to be offered, the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept my faith". May the Lord bless and keep you now and forevermore and may the memory of my dear friend, Dr. Lois Davis Gibson remain with us for all times.

HONORING JOHN CORONA

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate fellow educator John Corona, as he retires after 36 years of devoted public service.

Mr. Corona has been a valued leader in Riverside classrooms since 1979. Whether it was teaching courses, chairing the Martin Luther King High School Social Studies department, or serving as head coach of the Track and Field team, Mr. Corona has been an invaluable resource for students in our community.

For the past decade and a half, Mr. Corona's oral history project called King High School Remembers has connected hundreds of students with veterans to learn about history from those who wrote it. This program helps preserve the legacy of these heroes. Because of its impact, King High School Remembers has received widespread acclaim and numerous awards, and is recognized as an exemplary educational program.

I want to thank Mr. Corona for his devotion to his students, colleagues, and our community over the years, and wish him all the best as he begins this new chapter in his life.